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SUBJECT Comments on Possible Use of Ski Billets/ Pakistan's Attempt to Control Manufacture and Distribution of Jute	REPORT NO. [REDACTED]
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SOURCE

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I reported in February 1955 [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had, in January 1955, received an order from the Polish State Purchasing Office for 60 thousand board feet of hickory ski billets which would be sufficient to manufacture about 20 thousand skis. [REDACTED] in our recent conversation, commented on this order and stated that in his opinion it had no military significance. He believes that rather than acquiring skis for military operations in the Carpathians, the Poles, as Communists, desire to excel in international sports and have decided to concentrate on skiing as one of their activities. Previously they have used Norwegian birch, but apparently have decided that US hickory is preferable. Poland is the only Communist country which has re-entered the world shuttle block market; but since it is not as highly industrialized as Czechoslovakia, the question arises as to what that nation is using as shuttle material in its extensive textile industry. [REDACTED] believes that the Czech textile manufacturers are currently using native beech and Yugoslav hornbeam as substitutes for dogwood and persimmon. These woods, while not nearly as effective as those imported from the US, are better than most other substitutes, provided they are in sufficient supply.

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- UK shuttle makers and shuttle block exporters have suffered from the loss of excellent markets and from the nationalism rampant in the Indian sub-continent which has manifested itself in attempts at complete autarchy. The efforts of India to become independent of the outside world by establishing its own shuttle industry have been commented upon extensively. Now Pakistan is contemplating a similar step in its jute industry. As of 1 Jun 55, Pakistan will begin the exclusive manufacture and marketing of its important jute output. Formerly the jute produced in Pakistan was manufactured in India and at Dundee, Scotland; and that city was the center for the marketing of the finished product. Three Dundee firms, MacGregor, Gateshead, and John Ireland and Son, controlled the distribution

APR 27 1955

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of jute; and now they will be forced to turn to other activities or their employees will be thrown out of work. The Pakistani have established shuttle works and will import persimmon wood blocks from the US. Mr. [REDACTED] believes that, due to lack of know-how, this venture in nationalism will be a failure. He states that the inexperienced native workers will injure the weaving machinery and chip the shuttles and the result will be coarse, inferior cloth. He further believes the Pakistani will be inept in the distribution of the finished jute and not always able to fulfill their commitments.

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Shuttle blocks

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TYPE ACT-DATE INFO-TFR-DATE AREA

Poland

160

- 55 - -

Czech

132

- 55 - -

Pak -

276

36.3

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